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OTTAWA • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2008 metronews.ca

Celebrity Pg 18

Rimes, hubby ready for baby

Battle at home rages on

After 7 years, 93 lives and $7 billion, Canadians still split on Afghan war

LAURA EGGERTSON
for Metro Canada

As Canada approaches the tragic milestone of 100 soldiers killed in Afghanistan, voices across the country debate the rising costs, both human and economic, of a conflict that rivals the Second World War in length.

In October 2001, Canada joined the U.S.-led War on Terrorism by launching Operation Apollo in response to the attack on the Twin Towers in New York City. To date, more than 20,000 Canadian Forces personnel have served in Afghanistan's shifting sands, with some soldiers on their second or third tours of duty.

Canada has lost 93 soldiers, diplomat Glyn Berry, and aid workers Shirley Case and Jacqueline Kirk. Close to 300 others have been wounded in action.

"From an army as small as Canada's ... that's a lot of people," says Martin Shadwick, a defence analyst at Toronto's York University. "That's a considerable investment that has been made in life and limb, and certainly in national human treasure — and in money."

As of March 31, according to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Canada has spent more than $7 billion on the war — figures are based on the Defence Department's own budgetary Estimates to Parliament.

Those opposed to the war question whether Canada is meeting its own definitions of success.

"All of the arguments that we were told — restoring democracy, defending women's rights — none of these things have happened," says James Clark of the Toronto Coalition to Stop the War. "The composition of the Afghan government is mainly made up of warlords and drug lords who have atrocious human rights records."

But other organizations, including Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, insist Canadians make a difference.

"Yes, it is worth it," says board member Janis Rapchuk. She cites the increasing number of children in schools, and women taking human rights, literacy, computer and teachers' training.

Pollsters say Canadians remain divided about Canada's presence in Afghanistan, with a slight majority favouring withdrawal if the casualty count grows. The intensity of those positions will likely deepen with further casualties, says Nik Nanos, president of Ottawa-based Nanos Research.

MORE COVERAGE ON AFGHANISTAN, PAGES 6 & 7

IVAN NABINN/FOR METRO CANADA FILE PHOTO

Cpl. Kris Evong from Porters Lake, N.S., is hugged by his wife, Kelly, as he kisses his son Gage, 2, as he prepares to deploy to Afghanistan in January 2007. Evong was one of about 120 soldiers who shipped out as part of Joint Task Force Afghanistan Rotation 3.

"All of the arguments that we were told — restoring democracy, defending women's rights — none of these things have happened."
James Clark, Toronto Coalition to Stop the War

Feds pump more cash into river cleanup

ENVIRONMENT More cash is flowing to clean up the Ottawa River.

Yesterday, Environment Minister John Baird announced an additional $13 million in federal funds toward projects to clean up the river, bringing the government's total commitment to $33 million.

"I have never seen, in all my time in politics, such support for cleaning up the river. It's coming from the left, the right, the centre, north, south east and west."

The money is part of the Building Canada fund. Baird said the cash is not contingent on election results.

Last week the province announced $77.2 million to improve infrastructure in Ottawa, with a large portion for improving sewers.

The city also committed $20 million to improve the system that has on several occasions dumped sewage into the river, including in August 2006 when 900,000 cubic metres were dumped due to a jammed gate.

Orleans Coun. Bob Monette welcomed the federal cash and said the city must now go beyond its own $20 million investment.

"We're already close to $100 million, so it shows when people realize there is a problem, we're prepared to deal with it."

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Automotive pg 10

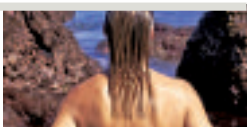
Wild, fun and roomy

Sport page 9

Jays' old GM in the wings?

Travel page 12

Best beaches for going buff



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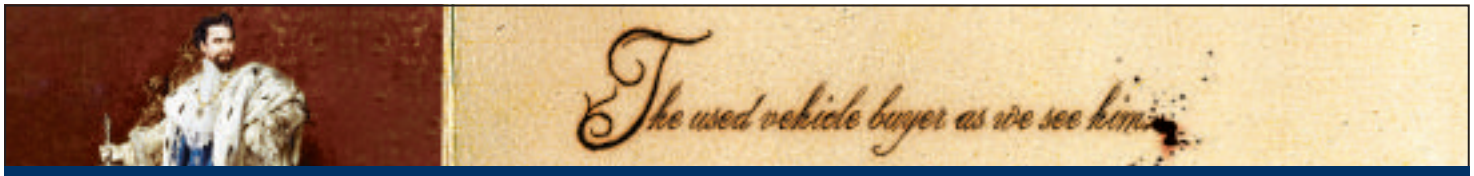

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BEAUTY at the Bay

Billboards: Love 'em or hate 'em

Yesterday, the corporate service and economic development committee directed city hall staff to look into revising the signage policy to allow councillors to veto billboards for their wards. It also wants to examine diverting billboard advertising revenue from general funds into ward-specific funds. METRO OTTAWA

Ottawa

Busy weekend

Provincial police laid more than 1,700 charges in Eastern Ontario, during Labour Day patrols of the roads, the waterways and from the air. Charges included 963 drivers who were caught speeding, 26 racing charges, 195 seatbelt infractions, 71 marine offences, 71 Liquor Act infractions and 22 drug offences. The Ottawa OPP Detachment alone charged 225 drivers with various traffic infractions. ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

Layton pledges transit funds

MUNICIPALITIES Though an election call has yet to be made, NDP leader Jack Layton is already promising money to help fix Ottawa's transit woes.

Layton made the $138-million announcement in Ottawa yesterday, saying a dedicated one-cent-per-litre in the federal gas tax will help municipalities invest in transit options.

"Our calculations show that this would generate about $64 million over four years for transit in Ottawa, so this would be a total of $138 million over four years," says Layton. "This could go a long way in assisting the people of Ottawa and the transit managers here to expand the service in Ottawa."

Layton says the NDP plan means cities such as Ottawa would be able to count on predictable and steady streams of transit revenues. CTVOTTAWA.CA

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Watch as friends and family gather in Nova Scotia to mark the ten-year anniversary of the crash of Swissair flight 111. Also, actor Jon Voight unleashes a tirade against Barack Obama at the Republican national convention
Play online Jumble Jong!

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3	5 5 8
Ontario Pick 4	5 8 9 9
Encore	6091324
Daily Keno	1, 2, 6, 11, 16, 18, 27, 32, 35, 38, 41, 42, 43, 48, 49, 57, 59, 63, 64, 66

These results are not official.

Teen's suicide raises questions

This time last year, Mohamed Kajouji was standing in a Carleton University corridor, hugging his only daughter goodbye. Nadia, at 18, was grown up. He had to let her go.

So Kajouji kissed her once, and said he'd see her soon. In March, Nadia disappeared. Six weeks later, her body was pulled from the Rideau Canal. She had committed suicide.

"September coming has been very hard. I should be driving her back to school," Kajouji said.

This week, thousands of teens will begin university, many leaving home for the first time. Nadia had been excited to go, Kajouji said, but the stress became too much. She began drinking, smoking and using marijuana. She was reportedly seen wandering the residence, cutting herself, asking for help. A campus doctor prescribed an anti-depressant — Cipralex.

> **"September coming has been very hard. I should be driving her back to school."**
> Mohamed Kajouji

For Kajouji, Nadia's death raised separate but related questions: How much are parents entitled to know about their children, and how safe is anti-depressant use in teens?

Privacy laws prevented Carleton from telling Kajouji anything until after Nadia's disappearance became an emergency. Following Nadia's death, Carleton underwent a review of its policy. This term, Carleton has launched a crisis campaign and expanded wellness initiatives.

For Nadia, it comes too late. Kajouji believes anti-depressants drove his daughter to suicide.

SSRIs

- Some anti-depressants have been found to increase suicidal thoughts and behaviour in youth, especially in the first weeks. In 2003, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration advised doctors not to prescribe Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) to those under 18. Health Canada issued a similar warning the next year.

Unlike the United States, there is no "minimum age" for parental consent in Canada for anti-depressants, said Dr. Marcia Zemans, an adolescent psychiatrist with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Kajouji is crusading against the use of anti-depressants in teens. But science seems to be against him. Since the Health Canada warnings, studies have cited a decline in SSRI prescriptions among young people, while others show a spike in suicides.

Kajouji has pushed the coroner's office for an inquest into his daughter's death. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

University of Ottawa students display their energy on Sparks Street yesterday during their orientation week fundraiser, Shinerama. Thousands of students from uOttawa and Carleton took part.

Putting a shine on student concern

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

Between parties and orientations, student shopping sprees and barbecues, this week is all about students.

But thousands of University of Ottawa and Carleton University students found the time to give back to the community in a downtown fundraiser yesterday.

Students canvassed the public, offered themselves up as water balloon targets and sang songs, all in an effort to collect money for Shinerama — an annual student fundraiser for cystic fibrosis.

"It gives us a chance to give back during orientation week," said Erin Mackey, a third-year uOttawa's Telfer School of Management student, who was collecting on Sparks Street yesterday.

> **"The mayor has designated this day as Shinerama Day. And everybody knows by now what we're all about."**
> Erin Mackey

This is Mackey's third year participating in the event, which involves 60 universities and colleges across the country and is Canada's largest post-secondary fundraiser.

"The mayor has designated this day as Shinerama Day," she said. "And everybody knows by now what we're all about."

UOttawa students set a goal of $95,000 this year.

Man charged with having child porn

INVESTIGATION For the second time in a week, a city man has been charged with possession of child pornography following an Ottawa police investigation.

Working on a tip from the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Michigan, Ottawa police searched a Kanata residence on a warrant on Aug. 19 and seized a computer and various CDs and DVDs, Detective Danielle Montgomery, with the city's High Tech Crime Unit, said yesterday.

The FBI had forwarded information to the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre in Ottawa, which passed the information along to local police.

Adam Dufresne, 26, of Ottawa, faces one charge of possession of child pornography. He appears in court for a show cause hearing this morning.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

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Cable ferry still not approved

An electric cable ferry designed to run between Rockland and Thurso east of Ottawa is still waiting for approval to be launched. The proposal was announced four years ago, but the municipality is still in discussions with a lawyer to discuss legal issues over the ferry. CTVOTTAWA.CA

Shifting targets console on birthday

Hitting the big 3-0 means something different than it did just a few decades ago

CityScapes

Tracey Tong
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

I've been dreading this day for a long time.

Today is my birthday.

As I attempt to muster enough breath to extinguish 29 candles on this year's cake, the countdown to 30 officially begins.

Deep down, I know I'm not considered "old." But when I was a kid, the big three-oh seemed so … responsible. All the 30-year-olds I knew were long-married parents with mortgages on three-bedroom houses behind picket fences, with minivans in the driveway.

While I've got the mortgage (on a family-unfriendly bachelor condo, in the wrong city) and a career, I feel far from settled. Most of my furniture is from Ikea. I can't keep a plant alive. I eat pizza and ice cream for dinner way more often than I should.

"As a chronic worrier, yet another birthday sets off alarm bells: Is that cashier calling me ma'am because she thinks I'm old?"

As a chronic worrier, yet another birthday sets off alarm bells: Is that cashier calling me ma'am because she thinks I'm old? Is the fact that I own so many austere cardigans a sign that I'm turning into my mother? Am I putting enough into RRSPs? Was that a grey hair I saw, or was it just the lighting in the bathroom? Should I start drinking more milk to increase my bone density?

But according to an analyst at Statistics Canada, times have changed.

In a recent report entitled 'Delayed transitions of young adults', author Warren Clark said in 2001, young adults ages 18 to 34 took longer to go through transitions — including leaving school, leaving the parental home, getting full-time work, entering a conjugal union and having children — than their peers did 30 years ago in 1971.

"There are pretty dramatic changes through that 30-year time span," said Clark, a senior analyst for Canadian Social Trends with Statistics Canada who works out of Ottawa.

"People are delaying the transitions that they make. The average 30-year-old, made the same number of transitions as a 25-year-old did in 1971, so there's a five-year delay."

While another Stats Can report found that young adults aged 20 to 29 are staying in the parental home longer (mainly due to continuing education and financial difficulties), Clark said people today, especially women, are more likely to delay marriage and children than their 1970s counterparts.

"In 1971, by age 30, 90 per cent of women were married or in a common-law relationship, but in 2001, only 75 per cent had been married or in a common-law relationship," Clark said.

Clark said that while 80 per cent of 30-year-old women had at least one child back in 1971, that number had dropped to 56 per cent in 2001.

"The pursuit of higher education, career aspirations and the elusiveness of work-life balance may inhibit many women today from having children at the same age that their mothers did," the report said.

It's amazing how great a few numbers can make you feel. They were the best birthday present a girl could hope for.

Metro Ottawa's Tracey Tong is an award-winning reporter. Her Cityscapes column appears every Wednesday.

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Fire causes evacuation of building

SMOKE Residents of a 24-storey Ottawa housing complex were evacuated after fire started in the downtown building's garbage disposal Monday night.

Firefighters attended at 415 Maclaren St. at around 6:07 p.m., where a fire in a garbage bin had filled floors 12 through 24 with smoke, Ottawa Fire Platoon Chief Dave Stephenson said yesterday.

"There was no structural damage, but there was a lot of smoke," said Stephenson. "It caused a lot of confusion. There was a great deal of smoke in the building and people were trying to get out."

It took 55 firefighters about 30 minutes to control the scene, said Stephenson. There were no injuries.

Stephenson said it is possible that cigarette butts being tossed down the garbage chute caused the fire.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Nunavut has highest minimum wage in Canada

Nunavut's new $10-an-hour minimum wage will take effect this Friday, Sept. 5, an increase of $1.50 over its current $8.50. That will make it the highest minimum hourly rate in Canada. SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE

Canada

"He will develop Canada's capacity for a new era of prestige."

Industry minister Jim Prentice speaking about Steve Maclean's, right, appointment as head of the CSA.

New course

Astronaut Steve MacLean, who flew on two space shuttle missions to the International Space Station, will chart a new course as the head of Canadian Space Agency. SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE

Tories within reach of majority: Poll

Liberal leader Stéphane Dion dismissed a poll yesterday that showed he was headed for defeat in an election expected for next month, saying he was determined to win.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, whose Conservatives won a minority government in January 2006, is expected to request the dissolution of Parliament this week and call an election for Oct. 14.

A Strategic Counsel poll for showed the Conservatives had the backing of 37 per cent of voters, close to the 40 per cent threshold that experts say gives them a strong chance of winning a majority.

"Polls are like surveys. They come and they go. What remains is our determination to win this election for Canadians," Dion told reporters in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Economy over environment

- The Strategic Counsel poll said 15 per cent of voters felt the environment would be the most important issue in the forthcoming election compared with 20 percent who were most concerned by the slowing economy.

Strategic Counsel put the Liberals at 29 per cent and the left-leaning New Democrats at 17.

The environmentalist Greens came in with 9 per cent.

Recent surveys by other polling companies showed the two top parties were tied.

Harper, who says Parliament has become dysfunctional, met Dion on Monday and asked him to back the government until October 2009.

Dion refused and said Harper and the Tories want to go to the polls before Canada feels the full effect of the U.S. economic slowdown.

REUTERS

McGuinty gearing up to lobby for Ontario

FUNDING A federal election has yet to be called, but Premier Dalton McGuinty is already outlining his plans for the campaign.

Emboldened by his own easy re-election 11 months ago, McGuinty said he would be hitting the trail "campaigning on behalf of Ontarians."

That means urging Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion, and NDP Leader Jack Layton to right some wrongs that have long plagued Ontario.

While the province has a laundry list of grievances, the main focus is in three contentious areas: Increasing Ontarians' employment insurance benefits to national levels, more help for the ailing auto industry and an immediate injection of $733 million to Ontario's health care system by calculating Canada Health Transfer on a per-capita basis.

4,630

The average unemployed person in Ontario would receive an additional $4,630 annually if entitled to the same benefits as other Canadians.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Correction

The Swissair story on yesterday's Canada page said that of 23 recommendations made by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada, "only two" were adopted. For the purpose of clarity, it should be said that board rated six of the recommendations as reaching varying levels of satisfaction.

Bayswater **Swissair memorial**

PAUL DORROW/FREELANCE

Veronique Noceto of France shows the names of her parents on the Swissair Flight 111 memorial to her five-year-old daughter Kaitlyn during the 10th anniversary service in Bayswater, Nova Scotia, yesterday. The flight crashed into the sea off Nova Scotia on Sept. 2, 1998, claiming the lives of all 229 aboard.

Greens prepared to go to court over debates

POLITICS Green Party Leader Elizabeth May's fight to get a spot in the televised leaders' debates could wind up in the courts.

The Green Party has hired Toronto lawyer Peter Rosenthal to press May's case and is suggesting it could to resort to legal action to make sure the party leader is able to join the four other political leaders for the election debates.

"The question is still up in the air, as we understand it, and the legal questions are pretty important. We want to have a focus on those. These are public airwaves. The airwaves belong to no private network," May said in an interview yesterday.

May says she cleared the last hurdle to participating in the debates with her surprise weekend announcement that Independent MP Blair Wilson had decided to sit as a Green MP. With an MP now representing the party, May says the party meets all the conditions used by CTV, CBC and Global to decide participation in the past.

But the stations have yet to rule on her appearance and her participation remains uncertain

Elizabeth May

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Canada's Mission in Afghanistan

Better communication vital

Expert helping with co-ordination between civilians and military

KATHRYN YOUNG
for Metro Ottawa

Better communication between civilians and military could reduce the number of Canadian deaths in Afghanistan, says a Pearson Peacekeeping Centre research analyst who spent four-and-a-half months there this year.

Aleisha Arnusch was invited by NATO's Allied Command Transformation to share her expertise in civilian-military co-ordination to help resolve a recognized gap in communications between the two sides. The problem, she says, is more acute in Afghanistan than elsewhere because they work together more closely on projects such as provincial reconstruction teams, which build schools, health clinics and roads.

"There's a need to co-ordinate more," said Arnusch, who helps the centre develop its programs to train civilians, military and police from around the world to better prepare for peacekeeping missions.

The not-for-profit centre, based at Carleton University, has trained more than 15,000 people since it began in 1994.

ETIENNE RANGER/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Alicia Arnusch, an expert on civilian and military relations at the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre in Ottawa, recently returned from Afghanistan.

"I think that in the future, (better communication) could prevent (Canadian deaths) because if the military knows where civilians are, then they can better protect them," Arnusch told Metro Ottawa.

"Civilians are getting targeted more now."

When foreign aid workers, for example, are in known Taliban areas, the military can better protect them if they know exactly where they are.

Effective communication between the two sides is challenging, she said. The military is hierarchical, with rank dictating how they interact with others. They're not sure how to deal with civilians who don't have rank, she said.

"There's some positive developments, but there's definitely a lot more progress that needs to be made."
Alicia Arnusch

For their part, many civilian groups value their independence from the military. And different civilian groups have varying goals themselves. Humanitarian groups, for example, focus on short-term relief, which can clash with the long-term goals of development organizations.

While in Kabul, she encouraged the military to declassify information so it could be shared, and urged civilians there to co-ordinate better amongst themselves and with the military.

"There's some positive developments, but there's definitely a lot more progress that needs to be made," said Arnusch, who wore a helmet and Kevlar vest and learned how to operate a gas mask.

"There needs to be some sort of co-ordinating strategy to bring it all together."

Arnusch's experiences will also help develop better training programs at the centre.

"My understanding of the constraints of working in that kind of environment will definitely translate into the course material," she said, with activities and exercises that will be simulated better.

Arnusch prepared for her own trip by sitting in on a course, learning how to watch for snipers and landmines, identify improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and tell whether gunshots were going away or approaching. The course also helped prepare her for culture shock in Afghanistan and also when she returned to Canada.

"One of the things I came back appreciating more was just being able to walk out of my home and go for a walk."

Facts on Canada's Afghan mission

Currently serving: 2,500 Canadian Forces personnel in Afghanistan, part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force.

Past service: Close to 20,000 Forces personnel have served in Afghanistan.

Canadian deaths: 93 soldiers

Diplomats killed: Glyn Berry, as a result of a car bomb Jan. 15, 2006, when he was travelling southeast of Kandahar City.

Aid workers killed: Jacqueline Kirk and Shirley Case, Aug. 13, 2008.

Afghan civilians killed: The Canadian Defence Department does not keep figures on the number of Afghans killed or injured, says spokesperson Lt. Isabelle Riché. University of New Hampshire professor Marc Herold, tallying the deaths from public sources, puts the figures at 6,465 (conservative estimate) to 7,689 Afghan civilians killed as a direct results of U.S./NATO actions between October 2001 and Aug. 29, 2008.

Canadian soldiers injured: 280 wounded in action, as of Dec. 31, 2007; 395 non-battle-related injuries while serving in Afghanistan.

Full cost: $7 billion as of March 31, 2008, according to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, based on Defence Department Estimates; includes cost of feeding, transporting and equipping Canadian Forces' personnel.

Incremental cost (operational cost): $3 billion.

Duration of mission: The Harper government has said Canada will stay in Afghanistan until 2011.

Other coalition forces: 40 nations have contributed troops, including the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia and Italy.

Children in school: 7 million today, versus 1.2 million in 2001. Today, 2 million of those schoolchildren are girls, according to NATO's International Security Assistance Force.

Access to health care: Up to 83 per cent of Afghans have access to basic health care, according to NATO, versus 8 per cent in 2001.

LAURA EGGERTSON/
FOR METRO CANADA

Challenges remain for women in Afghanistan

KATE CARRAWAY
for Metro Canada

Any military conflict will be riddled with underlying political and social issues, but some wars reveal and challenge tremendous and long-standing problems. Such is the case with women's rights in Afghanistan.

Lauryn Oates is a Vancouver-based project director with the Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan organization and a freelance consultant on gender equity and human rights. When asked about the specific challenges that women in Afghanistan face, Oates says the implications of Afghan customs on women's lives are serious.

"Girls may not be permitted to study at the secondary level, or women may not be allowed to leave their homes unaccompanied by a male relative," she said. Oates added that most marriages in Afghanistan are forced and often imposed on young, pre-pubescent girls. Domestic abuse is also an ongoing, systemic problem.

Oates believes hope exists, though.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE PHOTO

Sgt. Roxanne Clowe from the Canadian Provincial Reconstruction Team visits with an Afghan woman and a child.

"The lifting of the Taliban's many misogynist edicts changed things significantly," she said. "There were previously no girls in school except for a minuscule number in clandestine home schools, or attending schools in refugee camps in Peshawar. Now there are millions of girls back in school. Women can access health care now (they were forbidden from doing so under the Taliban)."

As dust settles, father's resolve remains strong

LINDSAY JONES
Metro Canada

As the death toll in Afghanistan nears the morbid milestone of 100, the father of one fallen soldier says it only strengthens his resolve.

Jim Davis, whose son Cpl. Paul Davis was the first to die under Canadian command in 2006, says 93 soldiers is an awful price to pay, but the Afghan people need the chance to live in peace.

"You do question yourself — am I too caught up in it, too emotional?" said Davis. "But as the dust settles and the more I learn about the mission the more I become convinced. … If we don't stay the course then we might as well pack it in from anywhere in the world and go home."

Paul Davis, 28, was killed March 2, 2006.

General's words
"When a soldier steps on foreign soil in a high-risk environment, every single Canadian should be walking with him or her." — Former Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada's Mission in Afghanistan

Canada's fallen heroes

A look back at those who paid the ultimate sacrifice between 2002 and 2008

Sapper Stephan Stock

Cpl. Dustin Wasden

Sgt. Shawn Eades

Master Cpl. Erin Doyle

Master Cpl. Joshua Roberts

Cpl. James Hayward Arnal

Pte. Colin William Wilmot

Cpl. Brendan A. Downey

Capt. Jonathan S. Snyder

Capt. Richard Steve Leary

Cpl. Michael Starker

Pte. Terry John Street

Sgt. Jason Boyes

Bombardier Jérémie Ouellet

Trooper Michael Y. Hayakaze

Cpl. Étienne Gonthier

Trooper Richard Renaud

Warrant Officer Hani Massouh

Cpl. Éric Labbé

Gunner Jonathan Dion

Pte. Michel Lévesque

Cpl. Nicolas R. Beauchamp

Cpl. Nathan Hornburg

Maj. Raymond Ruckpaul

Master Cpl. Christian Duchesne

Master Warrant Officer Mario Mercier

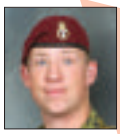
Pte. Simon Longtin

Capt. Jefferson Francis

Cpl. Jordan Anderson

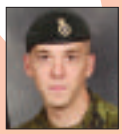
Capt. Matthew Johnathan Dawe

Master Cpl. Colin Bason


Cpl. Cole D. Bartsch

Pte. Lane Watkins

Sgt. Christos Karigiannis


Cpl. Stephen Frederick Bouzane

Pte. Joel Wiebe

Trooper Darryl Caswell

Master Cpl. Darrell J. Priede

Cpl. Matthew McCully

Master Cpl. Anthony Klumpenhouwer

Master Cpl. Allan Stewart

Trooper Patrick James Pentland

Sgt. Donald Lucas

Cpl. Brent Poland

Cpl. Christopher Stannix

Cpl. Aaron E. Williams

Pte. David R. Greenslade

Pte. Kevin V. Kennedy

Cpl. Kevin Megeney

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Girouard

Cpl. Albert Storm

Sgt. Darcy Tedford

Pte. Blake Williamson

Trooper Mark Andrew Wilson

Sgt. Craig Gillam

Cpl. Robert Mitchell

Pte. Josh Klukie

Cpl. Glen Arnold

Pte. David Byers

Cpl. Shane Keating

Cpl. Keith Morley

Pte. Mark Graham

Pte. William Cushley

Warrant Officer Frank R. Mellish

Warrant Officer Richard F. Nolan

Sgt. Shane Stachnik

Cpl. David Braun

Cpl. Andrew Eykelenboom

Master Cpl. Jeffrey Walsh

Master Cpl. Raymond Arndt

Pte. Kevin Dallaire

Sgt. Vaughan Ingram

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Cpl. Jason Warren

Cpl. Anthony Boneca

Capt. Nichola Goddard

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Sgt. Robert Short

Cpl. Ainsworth Dyer

Pte. Richard Green

Sgt. Marc Léger

Pte. Nathan Smith

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE PHOTOS

Clooney generates thousands for Obama

George Clooney has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama through an exclusive event in Geneva, Switzerland. Some 170 contributors paid $1,000 a head to hear him speak at a cocktail party held in a museum. REUTERS

World/Business

City picks up after Gustav

1.9 million evacuees return to New Orleans this week

Workers armed with rakes and brooms fanned out across New Orleans yesterday to clean up after Hurricane Gustav but officials told hundreds of thousands of evacuees to stay away a bit longer.

Half of New Orleans still lacked power and the sewage system was damaged. But floodwaters from Gustav ebbed, easing pressure on the storm barriers that failed during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Almost all U.S. energy production in the Gulf of Mexico remained shut Tuesday but little damage was found to refineries. Officials said a return to full output in the region could take two weeks.

Louisiana officials reported six storm-related deaths. Gustav earlier killed nearly 100 people in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica.

With 1.4 million homes and businesses affected, officials said the 1.9 million evacuated citizens should stay away. Business owners will be allowed into New Orleans Wednesday and residents Thursday.

The American Red Cross focused its attentions on had 60,000 people in shelters across the Gulf Monday night.

Gustav barged ashore on the Gulf Coast Monday as a weaker storm with 110 mph winds. Many feared a repeat of the damage caused by Katrina, the costliest hurricane in U.S. history, which flooded 80 per cent of the city and left thousands stranded.

REUTERS

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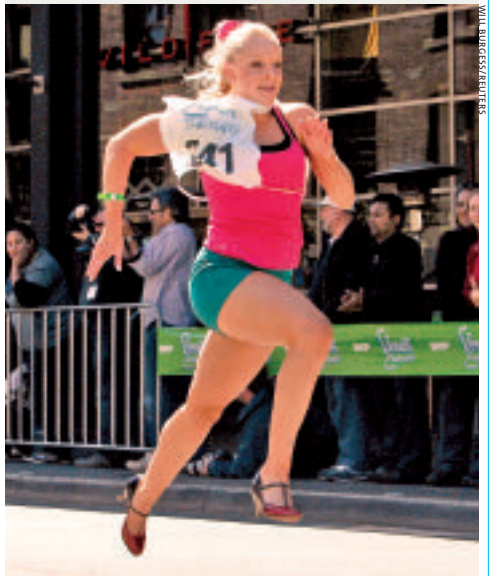

WILL BURGESS/REUTERS

Brittney McGlone, 18, charges to victory in a stiletto sprint race for a prize of A$5,000 ($4,250) in Sydney yesterday. Over 260 women broke the world record for the most runners participating in a high-heeled sprint.

Palin fuels 'mommy wars'

POLITICS News that Sarah Palin John McCain's Republican vice-presidential pick, is running for office while parenting both an infant son with Down Syndrome and a 17-year-old pregnant daughter has sparked both condemnation and commendation.

The party's conservative base so far has rallied around Palin and her daughter, despite its promotion of abstinence and traditional families.

"I do believe that some parents can raise their children well and not stay home all the time," said Lindsay Matlock, a volunteer at this week's Republican convention. "My only reservation would be that her son has Down Syndrome and ... her being away so much."

The fact that Americans are debating whether a woman with a new baby should be in a demanding job galls Carol Evans, of Working Mother Media.

"The fact that the United States is the only developed country without paid maternity leave should be front and center, not whether (Palin) can go back to work with a four-month old," she said.

REUTERS

News in brief

YOUTH Researchers have noticed a spike in youth suicides, with rates jumping by about 18 per cent in 2004. The rate declined by about five per cent in 2005. The increase coincided with government warnings about the use of anti-depressants in teenagers and adolescents, causing some doctors to believe they may be linked.

REUTERS

Business

Oil prices tumble after Gustav spares Gulf rigs

ENERGY Canadian energy stocks, including heavyweights Suncor Energy and Imperial Oil, tumbled with oil and gas prices yesterday after initial assessments showed hurricane Gustav spared major U.S. Gulf production facilities.

Oil fell 5 per cent to $109.71 US a barrel, and natural gas futures skidded 8.6 per cent to $7.261 per million British thermal units.

Canadian spot natural gas in Alberta sank to an eight-month low, averaging $6.13 per gigajoule.

Oil could get stuck in the current range, assuming minimal storm damage to Gulf facilities and slack demand for crude amid the weak U.S. economy. Working against that could be a cut in production from OPEC, which meets next week, FirstEnergy Capital analyst Martin King said.

But natural gas prices may be in for a further slide, with inventories climbing quickly after moderate North American weather in the second half of August.

REUTERS

Google unveils new web browser

CHROME Google Inc.'s new browser software is designed to work "invisibly" and will run any application that runs on Apple's Safari browser, company officials said yesterday.

The company said the new web browser, dubbed Google Chrome is now available for download at http://www.google.com/chrome/. The public trial of the browser will be available in 43 languages in 100 countries. REUTERS

In **brief**

IPOD Apple Inc. is expected to unveil new iPod music players, and possibly price cuts, at an event next Tuesday entitled Let's Rock — but not a long-awaited update to its MacBook laptops until a later date.

CORRUPTION A Las Vegas court Friday convicted two former Bank of China managers and their wives in a $485 million money laundering and racketeering scheme — a warning to Chinese officials on the risks of corruption, China's state media said. REUTERS

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CFL
The Winnipeg Blue Bombers and B.C. Lions pulled off a deal yesterday, with the Bombers sending running back Charles Roberts to B.C. in exchange for running back Joe Smith. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

Panthers grab McCabe

Bryan McCabe's stay in Toronto has officially come to an end. The Florida Panthers acquired the veteran defenceman, left, along with a fourth-round pick in 2010 from the Maple Leafs yesterday in exchange for blue-liner Mike Van Ryn.

Metro News Services

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Gillick flying back to Jays?

World championship architect could postpone retirement: Source

YorkReport

marty.york@metronews.ca

Decision-makers in the Blue Jays' hierarchy are seriously thinking of going back to the future.

Again.

Sources tell Metro the Jays' ownership is privately pondering the idea of bringing back Pat Gillick to Toronto after this season. Gillick would either work directly under or replace his long-time friend, Jays president Paul Godfrey.

And, before you go off snickering about this, I'll remind you that these same sources told us back on May 13 that Cito Gaston was a possibility to be rehired as the Jays' manager. That was five weeks before it actually happened. (Look that up at metronews.ca if you'd like a reminder.)

Gillick, of course, was the Jays' general manager during their halcyon days, including their World Series years in 1992 and 1993. He is planning to retire as the Philadelphia Phillies' GM after this season.

As MLB insider Ken Rosenthal reported recently, though, "Gillick is a baseball lifer. Even though he is 71, few envision him walking away."

Godfrey's contract expires after the season. J.P. Ricciardi's pact as the Jays' GM runs through 2010 but, as Rosenthal reported, he's "in trouble. He creates problems for himself with his bluntness, and in six seasons has yet to produce a playoff team, even though ownership has increased payroll to nearly $100-million."

• The aforementioned sources whispered the Jays also are ending their long-term affiliation with Syracuse and may move their Triple-A franchise to Columbus, Ohio. Buffalo would make sense, too ... The careers of Jeff Kent and Frank Thomas, ex-Jays and future Hall of Famers, appear to be over because of surgeries required on their knee and quad, respectively ... Another Hall of Fame shoo-in, the St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols entered last night needing to drive in only nine runs to become the third hitter in MLB history to record 100 RBIs in his first eight seasons. He'd join the select company of Ted Williams and Al Simmons and would surpass Joe DiMaggio.

• Ricky Williams is back as the Miami Dolphins' main running back but he simultaneously is studying osteopathy and plans to become a doctor.

Williams said: "I like to make people feel better," something he did for the Argonauts only after he left them.

• The Argos' Arland Bruce has been fined by the CFL for the Spider-Man mask he wore (not cool, not funny) after a touchdown in Hamilton Monday ... The Winnipeg Blue Bombers will sign former Tiger-Cat quarterback Timmy Chang ... Don't be surprised if Charlie Taaffe will soon be Hamilton's former head coach.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

SCOREBOARD

MLB

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Boston 14 Baltimore 2
Cleveland 9 Chicago W. Sox 3
L.A. Angels 5 Detroit 4
N.Y. Yankees 7 Tampa Bay 2
Toronto 7 Minnesota 5
Seattle at Texas
Oakland at Kansas City

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Philadelphia 4 Washington 0
Pittsburgh 3 Cincinnati 2
Atlanta at Florida
N.Y. Mets at Milwaukee
Houston at Chicago Cubs
San Francisco at Colorado
St. Louis at Arizona
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Chicago Sox at Cleveland, 12:05
Baltimore at Boston, 1:35
Seattle at Texas, 2:05
L.A. Angels at Detroit, 7:05
Minnesota at Toronto, 7:07
N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay, 7:10
Oakland at Kansas City, 8:10

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Atlanta at Florida, 1:10
N.Y. Mets at Milwaukee, 2:05
San Francisco at Colorado, 3:05
St. Louis at Arizona, 3:40
Philadelphia at Washington, 7:10
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 7:10
Houston at Chicago Cubs, 8:05
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

CFL

WEEK 11

FRIDAY'S GAME
Calgary at Edmonton, 9

SATURDAY'S GAME
B.C. at Hamilton, 4

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Toronto at Montreal, 1
Saskatchewan at Winnipeg, 4

Automotive

A METRO JOINT VENTURE WITH: carguide magazine.com

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Walk on the wild side

Caliber SRT4 delivers big bang for the buck without compromising fun

B. MCLAUCHLAN
for Metro Canada

Anyone looking for great value, great performance and innovative features, the Caliber measures up.

2009 Dodge Caliber SRT4

Type: Compact 5-passenger hatchback FWD
Price: $24,995
Engine: 2.4-litre L4 DOHC turbo
HP: 285 @ 5,700 rpm
Torque: 265 @ 2,000 – 5,600 rpm

Highlights

- Aggressive styling
- Performance
- Cargo room
- Safety equipment
- Bang for the buck

You could say Dodge's Caliber SRT4 is one case where the marketing message meets the metal.

Its snout is bold and sculpted, as is the rear. Large headlamps and tail lamps dominate the corners. Prominent, squared shoulders and protruding wheel arches give the impression the SRT4 is larger than it actually is and help contribute to a tough-guy stance too.

Right, let's get the bread-and-butter stuff on the table first. You can get your Caliber in lesser SE, SXT and R/T trim. The SE and SXT get a 148 hp, 1.8-litre 'four' mated to a five-speed manual transmission.

Their optional automatic is a continuously variable transmission (CVT), which must be mated to the 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine. The sporty R/T combines the CVT with a 172 hp, 2.4-litre four. Prices run in the $16,000 to $22,000 range. Incidentally, all-wheel-drive is available on the R/T model.

But when Dodge's Street Racing Technology … get it, SRT? … gang created the $24,995 SRT4, they stuffed in a 285 hp, 2.4-litre turbocharged four-banger and a six-speed stick to strike fear into the heart of god-fearing church-going econoboxes of all stripes.

At $26,170, as tested, our SRT4 included Goodyear F1 performance tires on polished wheels ($250) and a $925 Option group comprising mostly minor and frivolous frills.

Inside, the SRT4 doesn't seem like a compact. The front compartment is quite roomy, and the 60/40-split rear seats are comfortable enough for two. Legroom is limited for the middle passenger because of the floor-mounted cupholders.

If you're tall enough, you can lever down the driver's seat for a classic legs-out, low-slung sports car driving position.

If you need a lift to see out, however, the manual pump-action seat adjuster trades thigh support for seat height in a way that might not suit all body types.

But the best thing about this hot Caliber, apart from its bang for the buck, is its exhilarating combination of rapid acceleration, good shift action, informative steering, firmly cushioned (if a bit choppy) ride, terrific handling and satisfying hard-edged snarl from the exhaust system. But, be advised, torque steer is at times prodigious, as is the front end's tendency to 'wash out' if you get on the power too soon in mid-turn; mid-corner bumps can also unsettle it and the optional F1 tires aren't too happy with wet pavement.

Inside, the SRT4 doesn't seem like a compact. The front compartment is quite roomy.

That said, anyone looking for great value, reasonable fuel economy, great performance, versatile storage capacity and innovative features, the Caliber measures up.

Modern technology makes diesel myths history

Would you consider buying a clean diesel passenger vehicle? What if owning a clean diesel vehicle translated into savings for your pocket book and helped protect the environment, without sacrificing vehicle performance?

Many car owners still have outdated perceptions of diesels. Today's diesel passenger vehicles are fuel efficient, clean and provide drivers with greater performance than comparable gasoline vehicles. You could call this diesel advantage: Good, Clean, Fun.

Good

Diesel passenger vehicles offer 30 per cent better fuel economy, on average, compared to gasoline passenger vehicles, which means drivers make fewer trips to the pump. As a matter of fact, consumers save money every time they go to the pump even though diesel fuel prices are currently higher when compared to gasoline.

Clean

Diesel-powered vehicles, when compared to their gasoline counterparts, benefit the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by up to 25 per cent. Today's clean diesel vehicles comply with all government emission regulations. With particulate filters, what comes out of the tailpipe (exhaust gas) typically contains fewer particles than the air entering the vehicle's engine — the particulate filter literally acts as a cleaner.

Cars such as this diesel-powered Jetta SportsWagen give the much-maligned fuel a good name.

Fun

Diesels offer a premium performance experience due to a 50 per cent increase in torque (especially at low rpm) — the force that allows cars to accelerate smoothly and powerfully — compared to gasoline passenger vehicles. This premium performance experience includes increased acceleration and power at the point of acceleration as well as an ability to tow heavier loads for longer periods of time, compared to gasoline vehicles.

Diesel engines are a durable, fuel-efficient and eco-friendly powertrain option that provides superior performance. For drivers who want to save money at the pump without sacrificing their driving experience, diesel is a great option.

SE model shown, MSRP $15,770

The new incredibly fuel-efficient **2009 PONTIAC G3 WAVE.** Seriously, look at it. That's one fun and friendly looking car. But it really knows how to give the gas pump the cold shoulder. Still, even though 5.7L/100 KM on the highway and 7.9L/100 KM in the city[1] is bad news for the gas pump, it's great news for you. And even better news is that the G3 Wave is loaded with things like optional OnStar®, auxiliary audio input jack, five star rating for frontal impact[2], available side-impact airbags and the best coverage in Canada[3]. So, even though the G3 Wave works really hard to make the gas pump sad, it works just as hard to make you happy. **Cash Purchase Price at $9,995.***

PONTIAC G3 WAVE IGNITE THE FEELING pontiac.gm.ca

PONTIAC
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*Cash purchase price reflects discounts only available with cash purchase price offer and not available for purchase financing or lease offers. Freight ($1125), licence, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees, duties and taxes not included. Dealers are free to set individual prices. See newspaper or your participating dealer for details. [1]When equipped with a 5-speed manual transmission, estimated 2009 ratings, based on GM testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. [2]Equivalent Chevrolet Aveo model tested. US government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). [3]Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details.

Living Colour The view from Dorset's Scenic Lookout Tower in Algonquin Park is not to be missed for great fall colours. Take an hour to hike Tower Trail, which loops through a beautiful mixed forest from the top of the lookout hill to the base, and back up again. Robinson's General Store has been in operation since 1921 and is a pleasant diversion en route. **ONTARIOTRAVEL.NET**

Travel

It's almost leaf tour time

The website 400eleven.com is a great resource for Ontario fall driving tours. They include a Lake Simcoe circle tour; Algonquin area trips; Barrie to Orangeville; Haliburton and Huntsville; along Lake Ontario from Grafton to Picton; Lakefield to Barry's Bay; North Bay and Sudbury; Peterborough and the Kawarthas; and a Sault Ste. Marie route.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

A monk moment

TheTravelJunkie
Julia Dimon

thetraveljunkie.ca

A monk at the Lotus Lantern International Meditation Centre in South Korea solemnly rings a bell. The centre comprises of a temple complex designed for foreigners looking to study Buddhism.

It's 3:45 a.m., and I've been awakened by the loud banging of a wooden percussion instrument. I slip into my itchy grey training suit and make my way blindly up a set of stone steps. At the top, a monk is ceremoniously striking a drum while sleepy tourists silently file into temple.

Here at the Lotus Lantern International Meditation Centre, a two-hour drive from Seoul, South Korea, visitors can spend a night experiencing the life of a monk. This 12-year-old temple complex was designed for foreigners looking to study Buddhism.

Tourists sleep on a traditional Korean cot, wake up at the crack of dawn, eat simple food, wash their own dishes, meditate and learn the philosophical principles of Zen Buddhism. Though an overnight stay is short, the goal is to inspire visitors to learn more.

My introduction to monkhood begins in the golden temple with some early morning chanting. Breathing deeply, I take in my surroundings: The smell of incense, a gleaming gold statue of Buddha, the deep hum of meditative monks. Reciting the "Bopsheen Jeeriohn," the monks prepare for their prostrations — 108 prostrations, to be exact. Hands pressed together, bending down to the kneeling position, I try to follow their lead. I place my forehead to the floor and my palms on the ground. Part squat, part push up, part penitence, the prostrations are strenuous and hard on the knees. After 20, I start to question whether I can do all 108.

"The greater pain your body feels the heavier negative karma you have," reads a nearby sign. By this logic, I'm ridden with bad karma. Blood pumping and knees cracking, I continue to struggle with the prostrations while the monks perform their early morning ritual calmly and with ease. Clearly, I need some practice at this spiritual practice. From the temple, our group of wannabe monks move to the meditation room.

Sitting crossed-legged on a cushion, I sit up straight and try to clear my mind. "Meditation is a tool which helps us be present in the moment, rather than living in the past or the future," says Alexander, a Russian monk who's been studying here for the past five years. Counting my breaths in and out, I feel relaxed, my mind concentrated.

But my focus doesn't last long. A pesky mosquito buzzes around me like a kamikaze pilot, coming in for a crash landing.

Since Buddhists don't believe you should kill living creatures (blood-sucking mosquitoes included) I have no choice but to gently swat it away and try to regain my meditative focus.

Normally, my mind is continually making to-do lists, so meditation doesn't come easily. It's hard for me to imagine how monks such as Alexander are able to spend most of their days dedicated to the pursuit. After the experience, I realize that while I'm drawn to the philosophical principles of Buddhism (living in the present moment, renouncing desire for money and material objects) when I come face to face with worldly pleasures, I crack.

For example, the monks believe that food is meant to sustain the body for enlightenment rather than for enjoyment. But I'm not nearly disciplined enough to think of nirvana when faced with temporary indulgences like banana splits, bacon cheeseburgers or eggs Benedict.

Extra hollandaise sauce,

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

more online

For more information on South Korea and temple stays, log onto *visitkorea.or.kr*

"The greater pain your body feels the heavier negative karma you have"
Sign at Lotus Lantern

An online travel site compiled some of the best places in the world to enjoy your vacation au naturel.

Tracking Top 10 spots to go buff

For travellers who really want to strip off in the sun, online travel site TripAdvisor has come up with a list of the top 10 resorts where clothing is optional.

1. Au Naturel Club, Riviera Maya, Mexico.
According to one TripAdvisor traveller: "Everyone is just there to relax and enjoy the sun and to unwind. I cannot think of a better place to do all of those things."

2. Garden of Eden Resort, Isla Solarte, Panama
Tucked away on Panama's Caribbean coast, this pristine island has a laid-back atmosphere.

3. Living Waters Spa, Desert Hot Springs, California
Between the hot mineral water pools and the luxurious accommodations, Living Waters Spa is the perfect place for total au naturel relaxation in the California sunshine.

4. Terra Cotta Inn, Palm Springs, California
One TripAdvisor traveller called it: "A place where you can feel totally comfortable shedding your stress, worries, and cares right along with your clothes."

5. Caliente Caribe Resort and Spa, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic
Stay clothed on the lush Caribbean grounds if you wish, but undress for a comfortable experience that is naturally delightful.

6. Sorobon Beach Resort, Bonaire
Visitors love the tranquility of this Bonaire haven, with its shallow barrier-protected bay that makes swimming, scuba diving and snorkeling a delight.

7. Cabanas Copal, Tulum, Mexico
Relax in a seaside Caribbean cabana with candlelit evenings in this eco-friendly tropical retreat making this in-the-buff destination more appealing.

8. Club Orient Resort, St. Maarten
Pristine white beaches and uninhabited nearby islands often leave guests feeling uninhibited at Club Orient in St. Martin.

9. Grand Lido Negril Resort & Spa, Negril, Jamaica
This couples destination combines high luxury and natural beauty.

10. Punta Serena, Tenacatita, Mexico
Says to a TripAdvisor traveller: "Overall, it was the most relaxing and romantic week we have ever spent at a resort." **REUTERS**

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TRAVEL CUTS See the world your way

McCartney pens song for new gal
Sir Paul McCartney has written a love song for his girlfriend Nancy Shevell that will reportedly be on his new album. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Too explicit!
Seth Rogen was forced to cut a hardcore drug scene from his new movie Pineapple Express because the footage was deemed too explicit for British viewers. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Big screen hits and misses

The Dark Knight delivered, the Love Guru disappointed this summer

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Like a long-weekend barbecue, this past summer movie season delivered a smorgasbord that featured some inevitable winners and losers. There were thick, juicy grilled steaks like The Dark Knight ... and then there was the rank potato salad of The Love Guru.

So, as summer winds down, Metro looks back at some of these small victories and big flops, helping narrow down your autumn DVD rental/illegal Internet streaming choices.

Not happening — Up there with aliens and dead people, M. Night Shyamalan's The Happening pinpoints humankind's next logical fear: nature fighting back! In a laughable hour and a half of watching "Marky" Mark Wahlberg run from trees and grass, Shyamalan tries to stay hip by addressing today's concerns of climate change through the thriller movie medium. Anticipated as Shyamalan's first R-rated film, The Happening fails in story, acting, concept and pretty much every avenue of suspense and Wahlberg's performance is less exciting than a Funky Bunch reunion.

Brotherly love — Apologizing for Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby, Will Ferrell resurrects his love-hate bromance with John C. Reilly in the hilarious Step Brothers. The duo prompts guffaws with their portrayal of grown men living at home, creating the hell for their parents children from five through 25 typically do. Ferrell expresses exaggeration without going over the top, bringing us back to his Zoolander days.

Trade in the Ford — Oh, how Harrison Ford must need a paycheque. Along with Shia "Handy" LaBeouf, whose tabloid presence trumps any acting attempts, Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull sees the duo trudge through the jungle on a journey to replace an ancient quartz skull to its home. As if the introduction of interdimensional aliens wasn't enough of an indication that this franchise has seen one too many renewals, Jones's secret life-saving weapon — a refrigerator – surely is.

The Dark Knight was the summer's undisputed box office champ.

Knight is king — Even if you detest action films and/or comic book adaptations, it's difficult to knock The Dark Knight. While Christian Bale's Batman sounds like a cross between Yoda and Godfather, Don Corleone, at least Heath Ledger's Joker pulls a posthumous punch as the film's antagonist. At times chillingly un-Ledger-like, his performance sets a certain villainous precedent for future arm hair-raisers. Matched with thrilling cityscape and action segments, The Dark Knight is the summer blockbuster king and second only to Titanic for highest all-time North American box office gross.

Chopra wannabe — If there was any laughter by this critic at the cinema, it was at himself for being so foolish to even dish out the Tuesday discount rate for Mike Myers' The Love Guru. The film sees Myers as Guru Pitka, trying to crack the American self-help industry. The Guru is unfunny and simply unfortunate. With childish genital jokes and awkward comedic attempts by Jessica Alba and Justin Timberlake, The Love Guru is less than transcendental. Even when its use of the Toronto Maple Leafs should cause CanCon slaver, The Love Guru pokes fun at Canadians worse than a Just For Laughs Gags marathon.

L.A. Confidential tops movie list

FILM L.A. Confidential has topped a new list of films made about Los Angeles culture, imdb.com reports.

The 1997 cop drama beat Boogie Nights and Jackie Brown in the new Los Angeles Times newspaper poll. The year 1997 appears to have been a vintage time for Tinseltown at the movies — the top three films all came out that year.

The Top 10:

- 1. L.A. Confidential
- 2. Boogie Nights
- 3. Jackie Brown
- 4. Boyz N The Hood
- 5. Beverly Hills Cop
- 6. The Player
- 7. Clueless
- 8. Repo Man
- 9. Collateral
- 10. The Big Lebowski

The Pussycat Dolls

Pussycat Dolls set to star in musical

STAGE The Pussycat Dolls are reportedly set to star in a new musical movie loosely based on their lives, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singers are said to be considering scripts which focus on the history of the band and allow them to showcase their acting skills.

"The Pussycat Dolls are getting a lot of film scripts to look through at the moment," a source said. "It's going to be semi-biographical, about their rise to fame, with loads of dancing and singing."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ludacris

Ludacris blends music, movie personas

Best-known to music fans as Ludacris, Chris Bridges is contemplating a new moniker.

"I have a new album and two movies coming out within two weeks of each other, so Mr. October is my new nickname," the rapper says with a laugh.

Like the original Mr. October, baseball's clutch hitter Reggie Jackson, Ludacris is positioning himself to hit several home runs out of the ballpark this fall. He is completing the final tracks for his sixth album, Theater of the Mind. Bookending the album's Oct. 21 release are his co-starring roles in Max Payne (Oct. 17), adapted from the popular Rockstar videogame, and Guy Ritchie's RocknRolla (Oct. 31). There's also his co-hosting stint with Motley Crue rocker Tommy Lee on reality show Battleground Earth, which ends its run on TLC in September.

REUTERS

Horse Whisperer author in hospital

The author of the best-selling novel The Horse Whisperer Nicholas Evans and his wife Charlotte are in stable condition in an Aberdeen, Scotland, hospital after they mistakenly ate poisonous mushrooms. IMDB.COM

Auction to sell rare Bond novels

BOOKS A rare collection of James Bond novels is expected to fetch $36,000 US at an auction this week, imdb.com reports.

The books were owned by former special forces soldier and Conservative politician Sir Fitzroy Maclean, who is believed to have been the main inspiration for the Bond character.

Author Ian Fleming was a friend of Maclean's and is believed to have based the superspy on him.

Maclean, who died in 1996 and was a close friend of former British prime minister Sir Winston Churchill, owned every Bond novel Fleming wrote, including a first edition of his 1953 debut, Casino Royale.

Now the books are to go on sale today at an auction house in Edinburgh, Scotland.

"Sir Fitzroy is one of the men thought to have inspired the character of Bond. He was a friend of Fleming and they moved in the same circles," Simon Vickers, of Lyons and Turnbull auctioneers, says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kid Rock sees great Summer

Patience pays off in releasing single

MONICA MORGAN/GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Kid Rock's latest album, Rock N Roll Jesus, is No. 2 on the Billboard 200 chart.

A decade into his major-label career, Kid Rock is riding his biggest wave yet, powered by his worldwide hit tune All Summer Long.

It's an old-school success story of patience, working the road, sticking to a plan and selling albums instead of digital singles.

The third single from his chart-topping album, Rock N Roll Jesus, which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 last October and is now at No. 2, All Summer Long is a tale of young summer love and partying, spiced with an inspired mash-up of Warren Zevon's Werewolves of London and Lynyrd Skynyrd's Sweet Home Alabama.

"I thought it would work. I really believe in the power of Sweet Home Alabama," the Detroit, Mich., rocker says. "To be able to start with that as a motor to build a car around and give it a beautiful paint job and everything else, it's a good place to start."

The single is his first Billboard Hot 100 airplay hit since Picture in 2003; and has gone Top 10 at Mainstream Top 40 and Adult Top 40.

Kid Rock's Atlantic Records label overcame the temptation to release All Summer Long as the album's first single, especially while there was still snow on the ground in Rock's native Michigan.

"We knew the ace in the hole was All Summer Long, but we had to be patient," says Ross Schilling, Rock's co-manager at Vector Management.

"Tommy Hilfiger's rich, too, but you can't walk into a f---ing department store and steal a pair of jeans."
Singer Kid Rock

Waiting until the following summer allowed a solid plan to be built. Jesus had already sold 1 million records and spawned the singles So Hott and Amen, and Rock was on a hot tour before Summer ever hit.

The album is selling at a 100,000-copies-per-week clip, surely driven in no small part by the fact it is not available as an iTunes track in the United States.

Rock's co-manager Ken Levitan is sure that the single's lack of digital availability has aided sales but feels this success is about a song and an album that resonates with fans.

Rock has been an outspoken critic not only of track downloading but Internet piracy. In a "smartass" public service announcement he recently advised people to steal everything.

"I understand people are pilfering songs — it's just a song," Rock told Billboard. "I'm not going to complain, Tommy Hilfiger's rich, too, but you can't walk into a f---ing department store and steal a pair of jeans. I don't care, steal my songs if you want, but let's level the playing field. You know how much money the oil companies have? You think they're going to miss it if you fill up your gas tank and drive off?"

REUTERS

Stones' logo rolling to museum

MUSIC The original artwork for The Rolling Stones' iconic lips and tongue symbol has been bought by London's Victoria and Albert Museum, BBC News Online reports.

The logo, originally designed in 1970 and used by the rock band ever since, sold in the United States for $92,500 US.

Half the cost was met by the charity The Art Fund, which called the work "one of the most visually dynamic logos ever."

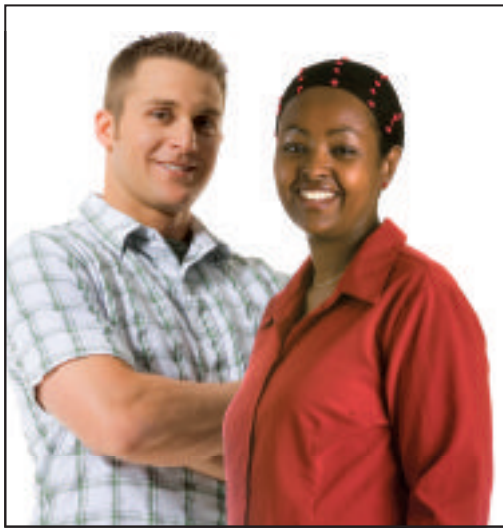
Artist John Pasche, who sold the artwork, was originally paid $90 for creating the design.

The Stones were so pleased with the logo that, in 1972, they gave him a bonus of $357.

Pasche was studying at London's Royal College of Art when Stones front man Mick Jagger, disappointed by the bland designs put forward by record label Decca, began looking for a design student to help create a logo.

The singer went to see Pasche's degree show, which eventually led to the iconic pop art design's creation, first used on the Stones' Sticky Fingers album in 1971.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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Group to protest at Holmes' debut

An anti-Scientology group plans to stage a protest when actress Katie Holmes debuts on Broadway in All My Sons on Oct. 16. "We want to draw attention to Scientology, and hopefully get Katie out of it before it's too late," a spokesperson said. IMDB.COM

Venice fest fails to wow critics

MOVIES As the Venice Film Festival reached its halfway point Monday, critics were, for once, unanimous: The lineup has been underwhelming.

After the Coen brothers' Burn After Reading opened the festival last week to loud applause from the public and grumbling from critics, a mood of lethargy set in on the event. The festival has not yet pulled a masterpiece out of its hat, except the Japanese animated feature Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea, Hayao Miyazaki's magical retelling of The Little Mermaid. Nothing else in competition has emerged an obvious winner.

As usually happens during dry festival years, a lack of big guns has allowed smaller films to emerge from the sidebar jungle. Claire Denis' delicate father-daughter study 35 Shots of Rum continues to be talked about, as does Marco Pontecorvo's clown tale Pa-Ra-Da.

The festival ends Saturday. REUTERS

Portman makes directorial debut

VITTORIO ZUNINO CELOTTO/GETTY IMAGES

Actress Natalie Portman

Actress Natalie Portman presented her debut as a director at the Venice film festival yesterday with a short movie about a young woman who is dragged along to her grandmother's romantic date.

Eve, screening out of competition in the Venice short film section, stars Hollywood veterans Lauren Bacall and Ben Gazzara as the witty grandmother and the widower who takes her out for dinner. Early reviews have been positive.

Portman, 27, said she had always had a fascination with the older generation, and drew inspiration for Bacall's character from her own grandmother.

"The film was definitely inspired by personal experience and also all my friends, female friends, starting to define themselves in relation, and in reaction to, their mothers and their grandmothers," the Oscar-nominated actress told a news conference.

Having started her acting career as a child, she said she had long wanted to be on the other side of the camera and will present a second short work at the Toronto film festival which starts tomorrow.

"We have so much time off between films as actors that you tend to get restless and you want a creative outlet, and there is not always acting work that fulfills that need," she said.

"I have been working now in films for 16 years ... it was exciting to know what a director goes through and also to create something completely on your own.

"When you are an actor of course you are creating something but you are serving someone else's vision and ultimately it's someone else's creation. To have authorship ... feels like a more adult job," she added.

Getting Bacall on board was like fulfilling her "wildest dream," Portman said. "It's so exciting to see someone with that much experience and that much wisdom on screen. It's rare." REUTERS

Monroe film found in Australia going on the block

MOVIES An amateur film of Marilyn Monroe on the set of Some Like It Hot has surfaced in Australia almost 50 years after it was shot and is being put up for auction.

Auctioneer Charles Leski said the 2.5-minute-long, 8-mm film shows Monroe and co-star Tony Curtis on the set ahead of shooting a beach scene in which the actress is bouncing balls to get the actor's attention.

The footage, which also shows director Billy Wilder, was taken in early 1959 by a U.S. naval officer who was invited to the set of the movie after Monroe visited his base in San Diego, Calif.

The film, in its original Kodak box, was passed on to his daughter who lives in Melbourne, Australia, when he died and she decided to put it up sale, thinking it may be of some significance to the film world.

star power

• Earlier this year, a 47-minute amateur film of actors Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable on the set of the 1961 film The Misfits sold in the United States for $60,000 US after it was put up for sale by the family of an actor who had a small part in the movie. REUTERS

"It's been a significant part of the family folklore for many decades but it has been sitting in her drawer for about a decade as she didn't know what to do with it or if it had some broader interest," Leski said.

Leski said this latest find is likely to attract private and public interest with Some Like It Hot listed by the American Film Institute as the greatest American comedy film of all time. REUTERS

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Kruger takes Tarantino role
Diane Kruger has joined the cast of Quentin Tarantino's upcoming film Inglorious Bastards. She will play Bridget Von Hammersmark, an actress who gets caught up in a plot to attack the Nazis. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Sometimes life imitates TV

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

PALINDROME: Republican presidential candidate John McCain's choice of Alaska governor Sarah Palin as his running mate has fuelled a media frenzy that hasn't exactly been edifying to watch. First of all there was a seedy rumour suggesting that Palin had faked her recent pregnancy to cover for her oldest daughter's maternity, a rumour that was duly rubbished when news broke that the same 17-year-old daughter was actually pregnant.

The first breathless rumour was actually a plotline from the recent season of Desperate Housewives, and it's not the only attempt made in the last week to describe Palin and McCain with a vocabulary of TV metaphors. The Boston Globe ran a "separated at birth" comparison between the Republican candidates and Col. Tigh and President Lara Roslin from Battlestar Galactica, which was kinda clever when you looked at four carefully chosen photos placed next to each other, and contemplated the whole "junior member of executive branch suddenly thrust into position of leadership" meme that seems to fascinate everyone.

Of course, you'd have to overlook the inconvenient childlessness of Roslin versus the apparent superfecundity of Palin, and try to forget that McCain has both of his eyes, hasn't killed his wife for spying, and isn't a Cylon. But don't try to tell that to the Democrats. Frankly, this is all getting too geeky for me — let's move on.

Next in line was writer and producer Rod Lurie speculating to the Hollywood Reporter that the Republican party owes him a credit for the McCain/Palin ticket, as it's an eerie echo of Commander In Chief, his ABC series starring Geena Davis as the first female president that was cancelled during its first season three years ago.

"It's unbelievable isn't it?" said Lurie. "I think that Geena and I need to be paid royalties by the Republicans."

Lurie, an Obama supporter, should have paused before hitting the cocky button, since his prophetic role is dependent on McCain winning and dying in office, necessitating the unprecedented swearing-in of his vice-president.

It would also help if Palin was a liberal Democrat, parachuted in to support a weak Republican campaign, and not a pro-life, pro-gun Republican.

During its brief lifespan, Commander In Chief was both celebrated and criticized for being preemptive propaganda for a Hillary Clinton presidential run that was once presumed to be a sure thing — it seems like so long ago now, doesn't it?

Of course, if you buy Lurie's logic, he should be paying royalties to Geraldine Ferraro.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

Republican presidential candidate John McCain's choice of Governor Sarah Palin as his running mate has fuelled a media frenzy.

Hollywood's top voice dies at 68

DEATH Voiceover legend Don Lafontaine has died after suffering from a collapsed lung, imdb.com reports. The dramatic star, known as the King of Voiceovers, died at Los Angeles' Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Monday, aged 68. During his lengthy career, Lafontaine lent his booming vocal chords to more than 5,000 movie trailers and 300,000 radio and TV commercials, including advertisements for corporate giants such as McDonalds, Coca-Cola and Budweiser.

Montreal festival picks Japan film

ACCOLADES The Montreal World Film Festival gave its top jury prize to Japanese director Yojiro Takita's Okuribito (Departures), while the top audience awards went to Canadian documentary filmmaker Benoit Pilon's debut fiction drama The Necessities of Life, Reuters reports. Takita's drama was about an out-of-work cellist who leaves Tokyo to to become an undertaker.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

OT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 9/3/08	265	353	2 TVO	The Life of Birds		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		The Whistleblowers		Human Edge		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones "Yanks in the U.K." (N)				NCIS "Judgment Day"		News (N)
	-	-	5 SRC	Des squelettes	L'Épicerie	Ici Louis-José Houde (N) (SC)		Bons baisers de France (SC)		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Ontario
	209	342	6 CHRO	Robson Arms	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model (Season Premiere) (N)				To Be Announced		News
	196	311	7 CTV	Hollywood	eTalk	Law & Order		Criminal Minds "In Heat"		CSI: NY "Consequences"		News (N)
	208	303	8 CBC	Coronation St.	22 Minutes	Little Mosque	Sophie (HDTV)	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9 NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	America's Got Talent (Live)				Republican Convention		News (N)
	117	713	10 TVA	Marché	Poule-oeufs or	Destinées		Hommage à Jean Lapointe		TVA 22 heures	Sucré-salé	*Complot mortel*
	-	-	11 QS	Chemin du golf	*Au volant avec les gars* ★★ (2001, Com. dramatique) Drew Barrymore. (SC)					Cent dix pour cent (SC)		Vie de couple
	137	763	12 TFO	Panorama été	Jardins	Destination Nor'Ouest (SC)		*Un honnête commerçant* (2002, Drame policier)			Les Gens de...	Tournants
	-	362	13 CBS	Dr. Phil		Greatest American Dog		Criminal Minds "In Heat"		Republican Convention		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14 OMN2	Cold Case		News (N)		News (N)		2Half Men	King	Cold Case
	214	344	15 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Secret Life of American Teen		Hell's Kitchen		Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		News (N)
	115	343	16 CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	218	345	18 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Greatest American Dog		Janice Dickinson Modeling		True Hollywood Story		News (N)
	-	361	20 ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Wife Swap		Supernanny		Republican Convention		News (N)
	512	396	24 CPAC	Tête-à-tête	Beyond Poli	À la une		Dossier public				À la une
	651	355	25 CTS	Happy Days	Laverne	Michael Coren Show		100 Huntley Street (N)		Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee
	-	365	36 FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	Bones "Yanks in the U.K." (N)				News (N)		News
	-	-	64 PBS	Business Rpt.	Drum TV	Republican National Convention Coverage of the Republican National Convention.						Tavis Smiley
	205	312	104 CTV	Hollywood	eTalk	Law & Order		Criminal Minds "In Heat"		CSI: NY "Consequences"		News (N)
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Politics	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Anatomy of an Earthquake		National
	500	500	33 CNN	(6) Republican National Convention Coverage of the Republican National Convention.								
sports	406	417	27 net	MLB Baseball Minnesota Twins at Toronto Blue Jays. From Rogers Centre in Toronto.						Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	126	730	28 RDI	RDI en direct sur l'actualité		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		Élections prés	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30 TSN	U.S. Open Tennis Quarterfinals. (HDTV) From the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y. (Live)								SportsCentre
	410	403	52 SCR	RaceNight						Score Tonight		Final Score
	411	457	56 OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	Off the Grid			Word Travels	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides
	417	406	59 SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks (HDTV)
family	554	544	48 TEL	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	The Critic (N)	Robot Chicken	Daughter-Devil
	557	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	The Suite Life	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	551	542	65 YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Prank Patrol	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
cable variety	570	580	29 MM	mmmtop	Popaganda "Skinny 911"		Back In	Listed		Brooke Knows	Revival	Party of Five
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Criss Angel
	628	584	32 SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		UFC Countdwn
	521	560	34 TLC	Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Lottery Changed My Life		Jon & Kate
	145	761	35 TV5	Toute une histoire		*Un ticket pour l'espace* (2006, Comédie)			Sans histoire	Vivre à vélo	Festivals	Journal TV5
	616	521	39 SHO	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Billable Hours	Billable Hours	Durham County (HDTV)		The Riches (N)		House
	620	523	40 BVO	Literature Alive	Arts & Minds	Wingfield	Camera	Mad Men "The Wheel"		Entourage	Bravonews	Law & Order
	520	505	42 DIS	Daily Planet (N)		Dirty Jobs		Sport Science		Mayday		Daily Planet
	575	583	43 CMT	CMT30 "Craven 2008"		Beyond Chance		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Totally
	601	562	45 SLC	End of Leash	ET Canada	X-Weighted "Sharla"		Work Out		Inside Hollywood		X-Weighted
	625	548	46 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	294	529	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	*The 6th Day* ★★ (2000, Science Fiction) Arnold Schwarzenegger.					Seinfeld	Friends
	600	564	49 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Property Shop	Big City Broker	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Flipping Out "Sell Out"		Holmes-Homes
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Smallville "Apocalypse"		Supernatural		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	53 MTV	Busted	After	Canada's Next Top Model		Step, Repeat	Run's House	Run's House	Run's House	MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Reality	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	Family Guy
	522	506	55 HIS	NCIS "Escaped"		Cities of the Underworld		The Real Treasure Island		NCIS "Escaped"		Crime Stories
	129	773	60 CD	Biographies (HDTV)		La Vie après la mort (HDTV)		Université	Université	Affaires classées (HDTV)		C'est incroy
	261	394	61 V	Murder, She Wrote		Chambers	No Place Like	*Murder, She Said* ★★★ (1961, Mystery) Margaret Rutherford.				Hope Island
	602	567	62 W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	What You Eat	Supersize vs. Superskinny (N)		Gok's Fashion Fix (N)		Style by Jury
	269	350	70 APTN	Circle of Champions		Shining Mountains		Northern Exposure		Wolf Lake		Med. Woman
	621	527	71 TLK	Look-A-Like	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	eTalk	Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		eTalk
	603	561	95 FN	Road Grill	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Italian Escape	Italian Escape	Challenge

critics'corner

Supersize vs Superskinny
If Morgan Spurlock has a problem with that title, they can always change it to "Trading Plates." In each episode of this new series, a British import, an overweight person switches diets for five days with someone who could stand to put on a few pounds. In the end, each is given a sensible diet to follow, but in the meantime, the idea is to teach them that there are other ways to eat besides too much or too little. Dr. Christian Jessen hosts. 9 PM on 62 W

The Riches
On the road again? Can he get back to you? The second season of this acclaimed drama series about a family of Irish Travellers masquerading as normal folks begins with Wayne (Eddie Izzard) ready to abandon the scam and hit the bricks once more. In fact, he's already sent his family off while he stays behind in Eden Falls to clean up the mess. But the straight life has grown on him, and he's having second thoughts. Minnie Driver also stars. 10 PM on 39 SHO

Gibson denies relationship with singer

Actor Mel Gibson has quashed speculation surrounding his love life following reports he has become close to Russian singer Oksana. She is reportedly just a colleague. THE DAILY MAIL

Celebrity Buzz

LeAnn Rimes and husband ready for baby

RELATIONSHIPS With their anniversary fast approaching, LeAnn Rimes and Dean Sheremet knew just how to scratch their "seven-year itch": With a party — and soon, perhaps, a baby, People.com reports.

"We're ready, definitely," says Rimes, adding that they've gotten some friendly nudging from their pal and new dad Keith Urban.

Says Rimes: "He's encouraging us to start gettin' on it!"

The country star and her husband invited 30 of their closest friends to celebrate their upcoming seventh wedding anniversary — and Rimes' 26th birthday on Aug. 28 – at the Calistoga Ranch in California's Napa Valley.

"We wanted to remember how blessed we are, and how excited we still are about each other," says Rimes, who was just 19 when she wed Sheremet, now 27, on Feb. 23, 2002. (They decided to celebrate early to take advantage of the warm weather and Rimes's birthday.)

The three-day festivities culminated with a seven-course dinner and an evening of dancing on Saturday night.

"My ankles and my feet hurt because I was jumping around on the dance floor so much!" she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

'Antics' cost Piven

CAREER Entourage star Jeremy Piven has been forced to deny his "diva" antics cost him the job of hosting a forthcoming fashion event in New York, imdb.com reports.

The actor hosted Fashion Rocks in 2007 but this year he has been replaced by Rescue Me star Denis Leary, amid rumours that Piven's outlandish demands infuriated staff at last year's event.

A source tells New York Post gossip column Page-Six that the star demanded a separate backstage green room and insisted on rewriting the script at the last minute.

"(Piven) was a nightmare," the source says. "And it wasn't even funny. (This year will see) a more trustworthy and mature host."

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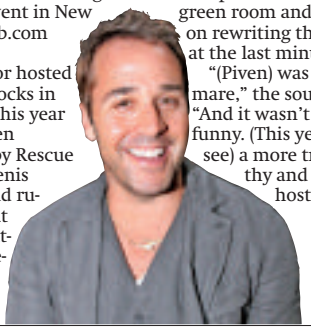


Mel C. only trusts mom

PREGNANCY Pregnant Mel C. won't take parenting tips from the other Spice Girls because she only trusts her mother, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer — who announced last month she was expecting her first child with her partner of six years, property developer Thomas Starr — admits the girls have all been phoning her and offering their best baby advice but she isn't interested.

"The girls are made up for me and have all offered to guide and advise me. But I'm sticking with my mum. She's my best friend and you don't get any better than that," she said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

No rush for Justin

MARRIAGE Justin Timberlake is in no rush to wed girlfriend Jessica Biel, according to his former 'N Sync bandmate Joey Fatone, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer has been romancing the actress since early last year, when she joined him at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah.

But according to Fatone, Timberlake isn't planning to wed Biel in the near future, despite taking their relationship much more seriously than his former flames.

"I think he finally met somebody that he wants to spend the rest of his life with," Fatone says. "You never know (about an engagement), but I don't know if it's the appropriate time right now. You know what, I think he is just playing it by ear. If it ain't broke don't fix it."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity briefs

Newton refuses film kiss

MOVIE Thandie Newton refused to film her sex scene with Gerard Butler in RocknRolla because he was ill, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress, who plays accountant Stella in Guy Ritchie's new movie, insisted the scene didn't involve her kissing him after she realized how sick Butler was.

"I arrived on set for the sex scene to find Gerry was very unwell indeed. So I wouldn't kiss him," Newton told BANG Showbiz.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Thiessen moves on after 90210

PEOPLE TV Former Beverly Hills, 90210 actress Tiffani Thiessen has no intention of joining her old castmates on the set of the new spin-off show — insisting she has moved on, imdb.com reports. The star played Valerie Malone in the hit U.S. teen series alongside Shannen Doherty.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pregnancy cravings for Rebecca Romijn

HEALTH Forget pickles and ice cream. Rebecca Romijn has her own unusual pregnancy cravings, People.com reports. "Lemonade always has to be in our fridge," said husband Jerry O'Connell.

"That's my job. (Also) soy cream cheese. It's crazy, right?"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

Justin Timberlake isn't in a rush to wed his girlfriend **Jessica Biel**.

Duly noted. So I've been watching my mailbox for an invitation lately in vain. I'm not going to fooled by JT again, after those years with **Cameron Diaz** came to naught. It's fairly clear that his people want you to believe he's not the marryin' kind, he's too busy bringin' sexy back, whatever that means. Kind of a **Frank Sinatra** but with more hair and less Nelson Riddle Orchestra.

What really interests me about this story is that **Joey Fatone** is the messenger. What's Joey really thinking as he relates this news? Is he happy the press still talks to him? Is he thinking this is a role he has to accept in life, being the 'N Sync band guy who people ask about Timberlake? Is this all because his name spells out "fat one?"

Fatone says "…if it ain't broke don't fix it" about JT's relationship with Biel, but he should know that something is broken, and it's his career. He should be asking his people when he's going to be the guy they're talking about in connection with some impossibly hot starlet.

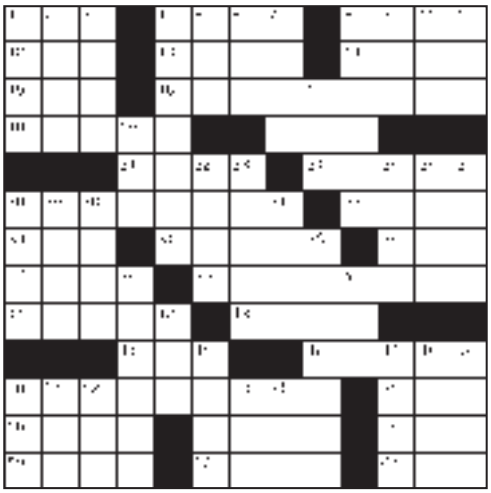
He's got to stop taking those calls that say, "Joey, we need you to talk to a reporter to deny that Timberlake is cheating."

If fame is the desirable mate to be wooed, Joey Fatone is in danger of becoming the perennial nice guy who never gets any.

NEWSDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Winehouse turns to Buddhism
Amy Winehouse, reportedly inspired by fellow singer Tina Turner, has begun to seek solace in the religion Buddhism. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Take Five



Crossword down

1 United nations
2 Sweet-heart
3 Low- — diet
4 Gives
5 Tulsa sch.
6 Car starter (Abbr.)
7 Come in last
8 Sweeney Todd, e.g.
9 Exist
10 Whopper
11 Fellow
17 Couric's employer
19 B&B
22 Cheery sounds?
23 For all to hear
25 Rip
26 Supersoft mineral
27 Upright (Pref.)
28 TV show set in Korea
29 "Simpsons" bus driver
30 Mideast gulf
31 Gambling game
35 Arachnophobe's worry
38 Where to find Sarajevo
40 Inseparable
42 In medias —
45 Wherefores' mates
47 Small amounts
48 Sty cry
49 Picture of health?
50 Crazy
51 — shoestring
52 Peculiar
53 Chit
54 Gist

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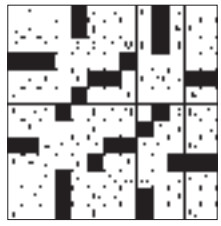
Crossword across

1 Telly watcher's choice
4 Seethe
8 Soother
12 Meadow
13 Therefore
14 Sills solo
15 Rowboat need
16 UV protection
18 Measure for Noah
20 "Chicago" lyricist
21 Mrs. Nick Charles
24 Squabble
28 Michael Jackson move
32 Raise up
33 $ dispenser
34 Footwear
36 Model Carol
37 Impale
39 Screened-in veranda
41 Esteem
43 Slay
44 Stitch
46 Rehab goings-on
50 Still brew
55 Atmosphere
56 "The King —"
57 Majesty preceder
58 "CSI" evidence
59 Arp's style
60 Long sandwiches
61 Firmament

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
An upbeat chat will liven up a meal. Move quickly to calm an offended person. Keep a tight grip on your spending.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Expect to work hard behind the scenes. A dynamic woman engages in high stakes manipulation. A good-for-nothing guy will make you nutty.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Get serious about having fun. A radical person drops by. Leap over tall obstacles when the chips are down.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Beautiful advances are made by a humble person. Hold yourself aloof in upsetting situations. An unfair comment will be explained and forgiven.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Someone is stronger than you feel. An optimistic person will say impulsive things. Your overindulgence will disturb others.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
An unruly group welcomes your interference. You want to romp with someone but plans must be pursued. A special occasion causes excitement.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A meeting can clear up a misunderstanding. Denial becomes a family concern. Give a gift to someone who is lonely.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24- NOV 22
Your past consideration will turn a new page in your life. Resist the temptation to waste time. Be patient when someone backs away.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23- DEC 21
Try to focus energy on your money situation. Look for tenderness before boredom sets in. A procrastinator is in denial.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Tight spots will be easier to slip out of now. Improve your understanding of relationship woes. You are tired of being stuck in a rut.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Your love power is turned back on. Buy yourself some luxuries. A tall man tends to be too intense.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MAR 20
A friend is determined to have his own way. Debts may cause minor embarrassment. Don't be wishy-washy about taking action.

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This day in history

SEPT. 3, 1492: Christopher Columbus sets sail from Palos de la Frontera, Spain.
SEPT. 3, 1678: Robert LaSalle builds the Le Griffon, the first known ship built in America.
SEPT. 3, 1783: Mount Asama erupts in Japan, killing 35,000 people.
SEPT. 3, 1934: Adolf Hitler becomes the supreme leader of Germany by joining the offices of President and Chancellor into Führer.
SEPT. 3, 1949: National Basketball Association is founded in the United States.
SEPT. 3, 1958: The Billboard Hot 100 is founded.
SEPT. 3, 1960: Niger gains independence from France.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sudoku

6	7			3		8		1
		5						2
4					2		5	
		9	4		8			
7				9				6
			7		1	5		
	1		5					4
5						9		
3		6		2			1	5

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

3	1	2	4	9	6	5	7	8
9	5	7	3	1	8	4	2	6
6	4	8	7	5	2	3	1	9
1	3	6	5	2	4	8	9	7
8	9	4	6	3	7	1	5	2
7	2	5	1	8	9	6	3	4
4	6	1	9	7	5	2	8	3
2	7	3	8	6	1	9	4	5
5	8	9	2	4	3	7	6	1

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:
Under 13. . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21. . . . . Smart
21-25. . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practising
more games metronews.ca

WORDY GURDY

Ottawa weather

Afternoon	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunny. 28°	Partly cloudy. 19°	Partly cloudy. 25°/ 16°	Cloudy. 24°/ 18°	Rain. 23°/ 13° 60%

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Temperature Normals
High: 22.4°
Low: 11.8°

Records
High: 32.9°/1999
Low: 4.4°/1946

Sunrise: 6:27 a.m.
Sunset: 7:35 p.m.
Moonrise: 10:49 a.m.
Moonset: 8:50 p.m.

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USE LESS & SAVE
GO 1081 KM ON ONE TANK♦
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CITY **9.5L**/100KM • **30** MPG†

♦Approximate distance based on highway mileage for automatic.

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GO 904 KM ON ONE TANK♦
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CITY **12.1L**/100KM • **23** MPG†

♦Approximate distance based on highway mileage.

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- XM Satellite Radio▼

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